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## **City of Milwaukee Health Department Investigates E. coli Cases**

### ***Recently Reported Cases May be Linked to Ground Beef Recall***

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) has recently received reports of several persons with E. coli O157:H7 infection that may be linked to a recent ground beef recall by Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation produced at its plant in Butler, WI. In addition, one of the cases has been identified as the identical strain of bacteria associated with four cases of E. coli infection recently reported in Minnesota and associated with consumption of contaminated hamburger patties produced by Cargill and sold through Sam's Club.

"The MHD is working closely with the State of Wisconsin Division of Public Health and Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene to further characterize the cases reported to the department" said Bevan K. Baker, Commissioner of Health. This includes enhancing surveillance, alerting the public to the beef recall and identifying matches to other cases being reported nationwide".

E. coli O157:H7 has been found to be a contaminant in beef, leafy greens, sprouts and unpasteurized juice and milk. It has also been linked to outbreaks involving water contaminated with animal fecal material as well as direct contact with animals. Symptoms of infection included bloody diarrhea and severe abdominal cramping. Complications of infection in young children, elderly and persons with compromised immune systems include Hemolytic-Uremic Syndrome (HUS), a life threatening condition that requires hospitalization and supportive care. E. coli infections can be spread person to person in institutional settings and through poor hygiene practices

American Chef's Selection of Angus Frozen Ground Beef Patties sold at Sam's Clubs with case code "7703100" and Best Used Dates of 2/5/08, 2/6/08, 2/12/08 and 2/13/08 represent most of the product shipped to retailers. Persons with items included in the recall should throw away the product or return to place of purchase.

Persons with illness should seek care from their primary medical provider and report to the local public health agency. In Milwaukee County, contact SURVNET at 414-286-3624. Further information and updates are available on the MHD website at [www.milwaukee.gov/health](http://www.milwaukee.gov/health) or by calling the toll free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-674-6854.